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Letter dated 2 May 2005 from the Permanent Representatives of Brazil and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We are pleased to enclose herewith the report of the Country-led Initiative in Forest Landscape Restoration Implementation, which was held from 4 to 8 April 2005 in Petrópolis.

This report is submitted under the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests related to the review of progress and consideration on future actions, in support of the principal functions of the international arrangement on forests to:

- Facilitate and promote the implementation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action
- Enhance cooperation as well as policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues among relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, as well as contribute to synergies among them, including coordination among donors
- Foster international cooperation, including North-South and public/private partnerships, as well as cross-sectoral cooperation at the national, regional and global levels.

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We would be grateful if the report could be circulated as a document of the fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, to be held in New York from 16 to 27 May 2005 (see annex).

(*Signed*) Ronaldo Mota **Sardenberg**
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Sir Emyr **Jones Parry**, KCMG
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Annex

Forest Landscape Restoration Implementation

Report to the fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Submitted by the Governments of Brazil and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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Forest Landscape Restoration: Investing in People and Nature

THE PETROPOLIS CHALLENGE

The Petrópolis Workshop on Implementation of Forest Landscape Restoration took place 4-8 April 2005 in Petrópolis, Brazil. The Workshop brought together more than 100 experts from 42 countries to take stock of experiences to date in implementing forest landscape restoration.

From Dialogue to Action and Learning

Forest landscape restoration is a vehicle for delivering on internationally agreed commitments on forests, biodiversity, climate change and desertification. It also contributes to those Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) related to poverty reduction, access to clean drinking water and environmental sustainability. It links multilateral environmental agreements to the MDGs. Forest landscape restoration is a local mechanism that should be integrated with both sectoral and extra-sectoral national development processes, including poverty reduction strategies and national forest programmes.

Forest landscape restoration has a proven track record in restoring key goods and services in degraded or deforested lands and in improving the livelihoods of those who depend on them. It is also a tool for reaching a wide and diverse range of landscape goals by developing a mosaic of complementary land uses which add up to more than the sum of the components.

Forest landscape restoration aims to restore ecological integrity and improve the productivity and economic value of degraded land. It does not aim to re-establish the pristine forests of the past. In more than 120 cases from all around the world, restoration or rehabilitation of degraded lands happened because people were looking for benefits such as income generation alternatives. It is a competitive alternative to degradation.

Experience has shown that successful forest landscape restoration starts from the ground up, with the people who live in the landscape and stakeholders directly affected by the management of the landscape. There is no blueprint for successful forest landscape restoration, since each situation will develop from local circumstances. Forest landscape restoration provides an approach that is gradual, iterative, adaptive and responsive.

Next steps

Growing the Global Partnership: The Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration is new way of doing business that brings together governments, organizations, communities and companies who recognize the importance of forest landscape restoration and want to be part of a coordinated global effort. Many members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are active in the partnership. The Partnership encourages new members to come on board. The partnership will aim to convene a second international implementation workshop within four years to take stock of what will have been achieved by the community of practice during that time.

Building a Learning Network: At Petrópolis, the Partnership committed to further demonstrating the value of forest landscape restoration by launching a portfolio of new landscape restoration initiatives by the end of 2006. These initiatives will provide experiences and learning on the role of forest landscape restoration in poverty reduction, quality of life and biodiversity conservation.

The Challenge

- Restore forest landscapes to benefit people and nature and contribute to reversing the trends of forest loss and degradation.

REVIEW OF PROGRESS ON FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

SUMMARY

It is widely acknowledged that governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, companies and other relevant actors need to move from dialogue to action and to explicitly link policy and practice.

In response to this challenge and to the fact that 500 million people currently depending on secondary and degraded forests for their livelihoods, the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration was initiated, with the purpose of catalyzing and reinforcing a network of diverse examples of forest landscape restoration that deliver benefits to local communities and to nature, and fulfil international commitments on forests. It is a learning network that permits those who operate at the local level to engage with those at national and international levels – and vice versa.

Many forest landscapes have been modified to such as degree that they are not capable of delivering the goods and services that people need now and in the future. Deciding which configuration or mix offers the optimal outcome in terms of human welfare and nature conservation constitutes a major challenge for practitioners and policy-makers. Forest landscape restoration offers a constructive way of responding.

Simply put, forest landscape restoration brings people together to identify and put in place a variety of land use practices that will help restore the functions of forests across a whole landscape, such as a water catchment, to benefit both communities and nature.

Following a series of activities at the national and regional level, a Forest Landscape Restoration Implementation Workshop was held in Petrópolis, Brazil on April 4-8, 2005. More than 100 participants from 42 countries met to discuss the future of the world's degraded forests. The Forest Landscape Restoration Implementation Workshop was hosted by the Governments of Brazil and the United Kingdom and organized by the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration.

The workshop fulfilled the following objectives:

- Increase understanding of good practices and opportunities to optimize delivery of the benefits from forest landscape restoration activities (learning);
- Stimulate the political support, policy and partnership arrangements and investment needed to implement effective forest landscape restoration activities (support);
- Catalyze and demonstrate implementation of forest landscape restoration around the world (demonstration and acceleration).

Observations from the broader work of the Partnership so far include:

- Restoration of forest landscapes is already happening in many places around the world
- It has delivered progress in the implementation of the IPF and IFF proposals for action
- It also optimizes synergies between the climate change, biodiversity and desertification conventions and the UNFF
- It contributes to poverty eradication and achievement of the MDGs.

Some success factors from the work of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration can be identified, which could offer useful lessons for the International Arrangement on Forests in future. These include:

- Reaching out to and engaging people at all levels, from on-the-ground practitioners to international organizations and policy processes concerned with forests
- Creating a culture of collaboration and success and a space for learning – with the continuous building up and sharing of evidence of action increasing confidence and motivation
- Intersessional activity which is supported by but not dependent on formal UNFF sessions
- Building up from national, sub-national and regional contributions
- Creating a flexible framework so that partners may contribute in many different ways.

HOW IS THIS RELEVANT TO THE FUTURE IAF

The approach taken by the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration during 2003-2005 provides a model for the way it has reached out to and engaged people at all levels, facilitated networking, provided a bridge between the local and global levels, and facilitated the translation of views across different levels. The partnership identified a cluster of issues which offers potential for synergistic implementation across the IPF/IFF proposals for action and the Rio conventions and therefore good value for implementers. Some of the approaches taken by the partnership in carrying out its work and supporting the work of others could be replicated to improve the effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests. These are:

1. Greater focus on intersessional action learning initiatives versus negotiations

The future IAF could mandate different thematic and regional intersessional activities or commissions, for example, more intersessional expert group meetings on specific themes or more ongoing networking and action learning initiatives. These would help strengthen the connections between policy and practice and between the local/regional and international levels, generate interaction between governments and major groups, and provide an avenue for the establishment of implementation partnerships.

2. Identification of manageable clusters of issues

One challenge facing countries has been the need to move forward on a large and diverse array of IPF and IFF proposals for action (PfAs). Identification of manageable clusters of issues – like forest landscape restoration – can help. Forest landscape restoration, for example, brings together PfAs relating to rehabilitation, restoration, low forest cover countries, participation, ecosystem and landscape considerations, environmental services, as well as economic, social and cultural aspects of forests, among others.

3. Ensuring a focus on substance and implementation

Intersessional initiatives have generally been more substantive than the annual sessions of the UNFF or the meetings of the CPF Network. They are therefore of greater appeal to civil society and other major groups. Another aspect to consider is that ongoing processes or initiatives probably offer more scope for in depth consideration of a theme or cluster of issues than one-off events and therefore better prospects for enhancing implementation and engagement of key actors.

4. Improving engagement of civil society and other major groups

A continuing challenge for the IAF has been the engagement of civil society and other major groups. One positive trend has been the steady improvement in civil society engagement in country and organization-led intersessional initiatives. It is now accepted and desired that civil society will take the lead in organizing (e.g. Expert Meeting on Traditional Forest-related Knowledge and the Implementation of Related International Commitments), or jointly sponsoring these events (e.g. Interlaken workshop on Decentralization, Forest Landscape Restoration Implementation Workshop), or will be invited onto the drafting committees (e.g. Planted Forests intersessional in New Zealand).

5. Recognition of the changing context for consideration of forest issues

The evolution in the context in which forest issues are being considered can be seen when considering the approaches taken by, for example, the Chile intersessional workshop on plantations in 1999 through the New Zealand workshop on planted forests in 2003 to the Forest Landscape Restoration Implementation Workshop in 2005. The range of issues considered by these events – including cross-sectoral aspects - and the linkages between them have broadened. Another important factor is changing forest ownership and management and what this means for decision-making on forests. Twenty-two per cent of the world's forests are now owned or managed by indigenous and other communities. Also, the majority of forests are owned by the public sector but are managed (formally or informally) by the private sector, both corporate and smallholder. Experience with the forest landscape restoration initiative suggests that a good way of reflecting this changing reality is through an increasing focus on issues-driven intersessional activity, which is not hindered by the same constraints as the intergovernmental dialogue.

FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION IS HAPPENING AND DELIVERING RESULTS

Positive steps are already being taken in a number of countries and regions. People, organizations, governments and companies are undertaking, planning and supporting forest landscape restoration activities including:

- 8 national consultations
- 12 sub-regional or regional workshops
- development and enhancement of field projects in more than 120 landscapes
- production of analytical papers and information materials and presentations in key policy fora
- promoting supportive policy reforms.

Workshops have taken place in a wide range of countries including Brazil, China, Colombia, Pakistan, Thailand, Ghana, Vietnam, and in sub-regions or regions such as Mt. Elgon in Kenya/Uganda, the Mediterranean, Central and Northern Europe, West, East, Central and North Africa, South East Asia, Meso and South America. These events explored restoration strategies and the policy tools to support them, profiled best practices in forest landscape restoration, and identified opportunities for collaboration. In some cases, they focused on specific tools such as the ITTO restoration guidelines. A workshop for the Southern Cone region of South America is planned for later in 2005 as is a series of national workshops being organized by the ITTO and IUCN.

Some examples of results in the field so far are:

- Tanzania: From semi-desert to forest. Since 1985, Sukuma agropastoralists in Shinyanga (northern Tanzania) have restored 250,000 hectares of degraded land.
- United Kingdom: The UK's largest man-made forest (Kielder) is being transformed into a resource that is rich in wildlife and recreational opportunities as well as timber.
- Brazil: Tijuca National Park, Rio de Janeiro. Replanted in a former coffee-growing area, it became one of the biggest urban forest in the world, being an important source of water and is enjoyed by many hikers and bikers.
- China: China has increased forest cover by more than 10% in the past 50 years. National priority forestry programmes for the restoration of ecological degradation involve 97% of the counties and cities in China and planned afforestation of more than 76 million ha with an ear-marked investment of 84 billion USD from the central government.
- India: Restoration activities in Gujarat have improved water management, protected forested areas, increased planting of local species, and shifted the economic focus away from timber extraction.
- Mali: In the Niger Delta, two forests have been restored, leading to increased fishery production, resolution of conflicts, improved social cohesion and the building of local capacity.
- United States: The Growing Native initiative of the Potomac Conservancy and US Forest Service has accelerated riparian forest buffer restoration by providing economic incentives to farmers. Volunteers helped collect native hardwood tree seeds that were sent to state nurseries as the latter were unable to meet the increased demand for trees.
- Colombia: A pilot project on SFM and the clean development mechanism has enhanced the sharing of decision-making responsibilities of communities in the planning and implementation of restoration strategies, shown stakeholders the benefits of their participation, and shared the costs and benefits among them.

THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

Moving from dialogue to action calls for a dynamic approach to implementation that builds a culture of success. This should involve linking inter-governmental initiatives with concrete actions at the local and regional level – explicitly linking policy with practice - and bringing key actors together to share constructive insights and identify opportunities.

In response to this challenge, the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration was established and was formally launched in Rome in March 2003. Its continuing aim is to catalyze and reinforce a network of diverse examples of forest landscape restoration that deliver benefits to local communities and nature and contributes to the fulfilment of international commitments on forests.

Partners include IUCN, WWF, the governments of United Kingdom, Kenya, Finland, the United States, Japan, El Salvador, Italy, Switzerland and South Africa, the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana, the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Program on Forests (PROFOR), the UNEP– World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC), and CARE International.

Brazil and China have become important collaborators and a number of other governments, organizations and companies are taking steps to join the partnership. Events held around the world related to restoration of forest landscapes have revealed that positive steps on forest landscape restoration are also being taken in many countries beyond the work of the partnership.

The first phase of the partnership during 2003-2005 supported knowledge sharing, action learning and implementation through:

- The exchange of information on where and how forest landscape restoration could be undertaken or could be reinforced (web site, email list serve, production of demonstration portfolio, etc.)
- The production of analytical papers (e.g. on the relevance of certain PfAs to a particular region, and the synergies with other regional and international agreements and processes)
- The presentation of case studies of initiatives that are implementing the PfAs, highlighting key aspects of forest landscape restoration and lessons learned (in the form of a demonstration portfolio or through presentations in regional workshops or international events)
- The organisation of and participation in national consultations, sub-regional or regional workshops (20 so far) and an international workshop on forest landscape restoration and the sharing of reports from those.

The partnership illustrates how progress can be made on implementing a manageable cluster of international commitments and engaging a range of actors who contribute in different ways. The work of the partnership contributes to implementation of the IPF and IFF proposals for action, as well as the work programmes of the Rio conventions, ITTO, Tehran Process on LFCCs, the Johannesburg Programme of Action and Millennium Development Goals, and other national, regional and international policy processes.

In general, it can be said that the work of the partnership so far has led to:

- ✓ Increased understanding of forest landscape restoration approaches
- ✓ Development of projects to operationalize forest landscape restoration in specific countries
- ✓ Establishment of national committees on forest landscape restoration
- ✓ Recognition that international synergies can translate into national and regional synergies

During its next phase, the partnership will further develop networking and decision-support tools and continue to facilitate the organization of events at the national and regional level but the focus will be on responding to the Petrópolis Challenge. This means that new ways of participating and a broader range of partners will be needed. The Partnership will continue to provide a platform for leaders and champions of forest landscape restoration to announce their plans and challenge others.

Some planned activities are:

- A number of initiatives - learning sites- in the field
- Regional workshops, including for the Southern Cone countries
- 9 national workshops, supported by ITTO and IUCN
- Further development of networking tools, such as web-based tools, which could focus on specific themes or regions, etc.
- Further development of decision support and monitoring tools, such as computer models to assist in negotiating trade-offs
- Development of tools for marketing forest landscape restoration to different audiences

All of these aspects together will form action learning networks within a growing community of practice. This community is an interactive and interconnected web of field projects, research and analysis on key thematic areas and tools for decision-makers, dialogue among policy-makers on enabling conditions, etc. Focal points for regions, thematic areas, special situations and specific forest conditions will build networks within the community of practice but these will also interact, i.e. cutting across regions, themes, etc., to learn from each other.

For more information, please see the partnership web site at:

http://www.unep-wcmc.org/forest/restoration/globalpartnership/

REPORT OF THE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOP

Co-hosted by the Governments of Brazil and the United Kingdom and organized by the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration

"The Petrópolis Workshop"
4-8 April 2005
Petrópolis, Brazil

INTRODUCTION TO WORKSHOP

The Global Workshop on Forest Landscape Restoration was held from 4-8 April 2005 in Petrópolis at the kind invitation of the Government of Brazil. The meeting was organised by the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration in collaboration with the Governments of Brazil and the United Kingdom.

Leadership in Brazil was provided by the Ministério do Meio Ambiente (Programa Nacional de Florestas - PNF, and Instituto Brasileiro de Meio Ambiente e Recursos Naturais Renoviváveis - IBAMA) and the Ministério das Relações Exteriores through the Agência Brasileira de Cooperação - MRE/ABC.

Co-sponsors included the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Forestry Commission of Great Britain, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), IUCN - The World Conservation Union, USA Department of State, USA Department of Agriculture - Forest Service, Japan Wood Products Trade Office, World Wide Fund for Nature International (WWF), and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs of Switzerland (SECO).

Additional support was provided by: BNDES, CVRD, LIGHT, the Municipality of Petrópolis, the Municipality of Rio de Janeiro and WWF Brazil.

The Workshop aimed to meet the following objectives:

- Increase understanding of good practices and opportunities to optimize delivery of the benefits from forest landscape restoration activities;
- Stimulate the political support, policy and partnership arrangement and investment needed to implement effective forest landscape activities;
- Catalyze and demonstrate implementation of forest landscape restoration globally.

109 participants from 42 countries and 11 international organizations took part in the workshop.

- The workshop brought together a broad group of actors with an interest and experience in forest landscape restoration on the ground and at the policy level. It encouraged good practice by considering a range of case studies emerging from national, sub-regional and regional workshops and the lessons learned from them. It explored key thematic areas, such as the contribution of forest landscape restoration to livelihoods for the rural poor and innovative mechanisms for investment in forest landscape restoration.

- The expectations of the participants were wide ranging with particular emphasis on:
- Developing mechanisms to support implementation
- Clarifying and measuring outputs of forest landscape restoration activities
- Identifying better funding sources and strategies, including through partnerships and sharing of information, targeting of materials to specific audiences
- Marketing of forest landscape restoration, including socio-economic and biophysical aspects, and including ecosystem services, community services and community well-being
- Creating a global network of practitioners, NGOs, governments, communities, the private sector and others
- Clearly explaining techniques or models for forest landscape restoration.

The highest priority was given by participants to enhancing understanding of forest landscape restoration, followed by funding and marketing.

CONSIDERATION OF WORKSHOP THEMES

The discussions of the workshop are outlined below by thematic area:

1. Understanding forest landscape restoration

The Workshop further clarified the following components in understanding forest landscape restoration:

- The landscape concept, which was possibly more extensive and more complex than had been appreciated; the need for scaling restoration up from the site level.
- The need for planning, even at a simple level, for sustainability and the protection of investment.
- The adaptive approach, which allows the adjustment of objectives and strategies in the course of the work.
- The importance of process as well as outcome.
- Approaches to forest landscape restoration were similar to those for other natural resource management, so therefore existing toolkits, structures etc. could be used. There were new issues but the approaches were not different from those of existing challenges.

The importance of the participatory approach was generally agreed, as well as on long list of those groups who might potentially be involved. People may be involved directly or indirectly, upstream or downstream. But it was noted that it was not always easy to implement a truly participatory approach

An open discussion on the characteristics of forest landscape restoration in plenary was held after the presentations.

29 participants from 19 countries and one international organization raised points related to the components of forest landscape restoration. They dealt with the need for:

- Active engagement of people
- Planning for community participation
- Secure land ownership and user rights

- Economic incentives or return
- Policy frameworks that address the issue
- Cooperation across government institutions, stakeholders
- Demonstrable benefits to people (alternative economic opportunities, food security, etc.)
- Scaling up from site to landscape level
- Partnership
- Package of species, techniques and methods that are appropriate for the land chosen and for the intended purposes
- Reliable data for decision-making
- Policy reform to encompass the main principles of forest landscape restoration
- Marketing to supply the product (forest landscape restoration) in a form that consumers want to buy.

An interactive facilitated field trip to three sites contributed to increasing understanding of forest landscape restoration:

- Tijuca National Park - Urban Forest Restoration
- Restoration of Golden Lion Tamarin Habitat in Sao Joao River Basin
- LIGHT: A Hydroelectric Company's Restoration Programme in the Mata Atlantica Biosphere Reserve

Discussion following the field trips raised the following considerations.

Objectives Projects were suited to resolve a specific problem, such as the protection of water resources, protect a species, control erosion and secure an investment. In most cases the environmental or ecological objectives might be achieved, but not the socio-economic objectives. It was therefore necessary to move up to programmes instead of projects and to have an integrated strategy. Another problem related to meeting the objectives with exotic or indigenous species.

Starting point. There may be different starting points, depending on the promoters. More rigorous planning and analysis were necessary where the promoter had the means, a little bit less for others. A starting point may be negotiation between those who used the land. It was necessary to devise a participatory approach to analyse problems, define strategies, define responsibilities and put them into effect. It was also necessary to have an adaptive approach which allowed the adjustment of objectives and strategies in the course of the work.

Stakeholders. Their involvement varied according to the site, but in general there was insufficient involvement of communities and local peoples. It was advisable to define stakeholders well, because some could find themselves excluded from the action.

Future actions. In general the absence of a long-tem strategy posed problems for the sustainability of the project, or the security of the investment. The absence, or inadequacy, of a participatory approach meant that local communities and people were not involved. Among the most important activities were those leading to the creation of revenue. It was necessary to find new sources of support. Research should be carried out on new sources of funds at the international level, especially for the conservation of biodiversity.

2. Benefits of FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

Working groups considered four questions:

- From what you heard today, and based on your experience, how can the environmental, economic and cultural benefits of forest landscape restoration be increased, especially to the rural poor?
- Who are the potential beneficiaries of forest landscape restoration and how may they be involved in planning and management?
- What experience is available on monitoring of costs, benefits and other impacts of forest landscape restoration interventions for adaptive management, and what are the lessons to be learned?
- What experience is available on balancing trade-offs between different groups of stakeholders and what are the lessons to be learned?

The participants recommended action on a number of fronts including calling for better recognition of the needs of stakeholders including cultural aspects, the development and macro-economic policies that impact on forest landscape restoration, the need to strengthen the capacity of disadvantaged communities or stakeholders, and the importance of strengthening decentralized processes, i.e. involving local people and local government in identifying the benefits of restoration and including them in awareness raising and capacity building.

The discussion also raised the issue of encouraging the full valuation of forest resources and ecosystem service payment systems that benefit the poor and the creation of economically viable management alternatives for small-scale producers.

It was recommended that forest landscape restoration be viewed as a means to an end, rather than an end in itself, and that approaches to forest landscape restoration were not different from those for other natural resource management so therefore existing toolkits, structures etc., need to be used. There were new issues but the approaches were not different from that of existing challenges. Greater attention should be given to indigenous knowledge, aspirations and capacity needs. Indigenous knowledge and existing good practices can be built on to maximise benefits.

In considering funding it was deemed necessary to build partnerships and make a business case for forest landscape restoration to leverage funding, and to maximize quick gains, emphasizing immediate benefits for local communities.

The workshop participants identified the lack of landscape-scale monitoring processes as a constraint and noted that the same indicators could mean different things at different scales and human communities were often not homogeneous so views on benefits may differ. This called for an approach that enables comparison between different types of indicators (social, economic and ecological) and recognizes that indicators will vary according to the landscape. It was questioned whether it would be possible or desirable to aggregate (or sum) site-level indicators to landscape, and recognize that actions in one part of a landscape may impact on another part or even on another landscape (e.g. downstream water flows).

Existing mechanisms for monitoring socio-economic benefits would be helpful for leveraging political support, while existing monitoring systems for ecological, monitoring could be used to leverage NGO support and international funding. However, there may sometimes be intangible benefits which are important for making a business case and those could be more difficult to measure e.g., carbon sequestration. In considering how to optimize such benefits it was noted that clearer ideas were needed as to how funding for ecosystem services

could be captured and how they could be unlocked - making sure that it make a contribution. Some participants felt, however, that the potential for capturing these non-tangible benefits should not be overstated. The participants suggested identification of the main bottlenecks and prioritization its resolution or solving of the easier ones first to allow initiatives to get started.

3. Tools

A range of existing tools and tools in development were presented to assist stakeholders, planners and policy makers. These were:

- University of Queensland Landscape Indicator Analyst Geographic Information Systems decision-making tool that uses weighted indicators in simulation models to explore the consequences of alternative restoration options.
- ITTO Guidelines for the restoration, management and rehabilitation of degraded and secondary tropical forests, which provide a knowledge base on all relevant issues that need to be taken into account in planning and implementing strategies for the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded primary and secondary forests and degraded forest land.
- WWF Madagascar Ranking of landscapes for forest landscape restoration implementation in Madagascar, including socio-economic criteria such the literacy rate, economic criteria such as the risk of conversion of forest into grazing land, ecological criteria such as the presence of threatened species, and political criteria such as the presence of a functional landscape management structure.
- FAO National Forest Assessments (NFA) and Integrated Land Use Assessments (ILUA), which is a process to collect and manage country-wide forest resource, socioeconomic and environmental information. The information gathered is based upon country needs, gathered at the local level, and made available to the national and international communities.
- Web-based tools for forest landscape restoration, including the web site of the of the Global Partnership within UNEP-WCMC's Forest Restoration Information Service, as well as the Global Forest Information Service, and the Global Land Cover Facility, an institution that develops and distributes remotely sensed satellite data and products concerned with land cover at all scales.

The discussion following a turn around 5 tools 'stations' highlighted that there is a major need for reliable, current data for decision-making, tools should be adapted to the target user and beneficiaries at different levels, there is a need for new technologies, e.g. for highly degraded or polluted sites, and those engaged in forest landscape restoration planning or implementation should look to other disciplines who are developing appropriate tools or methodologies. It was noted that local people should not be disempowered by any recommendations for specific tools to be used to assist in decision-making.

4. Governance and Partnerships

Presentations and discussion under this thematic area highlighted that trends towards democratization, decentralization and devolution were continuing. The devolution of control in particular remains a challenge. Participants recognized that partnerships could come in many forms, not only of governments and communities or NGOs, but also between international organizations, in particular, members of the CPF. Challenges remain in political and institutional areas and also how to move from having forest landscape restoration driven by long-term programmes rather than time-limited projects. Security of tenure is highly important, especially for small farmers, to provide the motivation, although this is seldom enough by itself and

greater attention must be given to securing the rights of local communities to trade in, and earn income from, the forest assets that they have restored.

This session dealt with the questions:

- How can partnerships be developed to ensure more even and equitable sharing of benefits and burdens among forest landscape restoration partners?
- How can increased community control of forests be harnessed for successful forest landscape restoration?
- What policy levers and instruments can be used to provide appropriate incentives?
- What enabling framework is necessary for viable forest landscape restoration partnerships?

Some conditions in designing partnerships are that partnership goes beyond consultation, there must be clarify in the vision of the initiative and the various contributions and roles of different actors.

Some ways to develop equitable partnerships for forest landscape restoration include the representation of all stakeholders within collaborative structures; the respect of local decisions at a higher level; the adequate training of all partners; and devolution of decision-making processes.

Policy dialogue could be enabled by multistakeholder round table processes, and awareness and capacity building. The importance was stressed of clear policies for the private sector, secure tenure, investment, and recognition of values of goods and services other than timber. Guaranteed access to markets is required for local communities and the removal of policies that restrict forest landscape restoration, such as onerous taxation of community sales of products.

Enabling frameworks might be promoted by representation of all stakeholders, within collaborative structures (tables, national working groups), respect for and enabling of decisions made at a local level by the higher (state) levels, proper training for all partners, and decentralized decision making processes, with legislation adapted to this decentralization

Tools included round tables (for example Peru), or Working Groups (e.g. Ghana and Gabon). It was noted that it is necessary to remove policies that restrict forest landscape restoration, such as taxation on community sales of products and obstacles to access to markets for local communities.

5. Investment opportunities, innovative financing, and policy incentives

Participants broke into regional groupings to consider two questions:

- How can community investments in forest landscape restoration be better recognized?
- How can the private sector, both corporate and smallholder, be better engaged?

The Africa group called for accounting for local knowledge and opportunity costs of forest landscape restoration to communities; recognizing local labor inputs; supporting appropriate technologies for local use; and identifying and encouraging international and local organizations that support forest landscape restoration.

Noting that communities can provide traditional knowledge based on wisdom and practices, the Asia/Pacific group called for community participation in planning, implementation and benefit sharing, as well as

economic incentives; privatization and ownership of forest landscape restoration projects; an enabling legal policy framework; equity in benefit sharing; and a change in attitudes.

The LFCC group highlighted the need for integration of forest landscape restoration in local and regional development strategies, exploring broad marketable opportunities and innovative funding mechanisms, and creating information networks at all levels.

The benefits of forest landscape restoration can be disseminated through the valuation of ecosystem goods and services, building on existing experience and knowledge, and the establishment of common rules between industrialized and non-industrialized countries, according to the Latin American group.

The OECD grouping recommended accounting for local knowledge and opportunity costs of forest landscape restoration to communities; recognizing local labor inputs; supporting appropriate technologies for local use; and identifying and encouraging international and local organizations that support forest landscape restoration.

On better engaging the private sector, the LFCC group underlined the need to engage the political sector, create an enabling legal framework for investment and a toolkit for potential buyers, encourage education and international assistance for forest landscape restoration, make micro-finance available, and create specific economic incentives for forest landscape restoration.

The need to understand the motivations of corporations and smallholders in order to identify benefits to them was highlighted by the OECD group, as well as identifying corporate image and responsibility as entry points for engaging corporations, and stressing the importance of making activities easy, fun and useful.

The Latin American group suggested establishing an enabling legal and institutional framework using incentives, certification and audits, and raising awareness on the importance of sustainable development.

That Africa group stated that laws are required to engage the private sector in forest landscape restoration activities, as well as to distribute benefits, and called for the provision of incentives such as certification, access to credit, and a guarantee of returns on investments.

Commercializing seedling-raising was suggested by the Asia/Pacific group, along with creating sustainable employment opportunities, and valuing ecosystem services for hydro-power and ecotourism.

Participants discussed the need for economic drivers – to make the case for forest landscape restoration and to ensure that benefits flow to the poorest. Incentives, new market mechanisms for ecosystem services and involvement of the private sector were recommended while it was noted that financial support alone could not guarantee success.

6. Moving forward

Comments were made by participants on the proposed future programme of the Partnership and on follow up to the Workshop. They covered the need for lobbying not only of governments but of all groups; the need to know what the real investment opportunity is; the statement that the private sector was generally not of relevance to developing countries especially in Africa; the comment that the needs of LFCC should be highlighted; since forest landscape restoration was about inter-sectorality and reaching out, some practical help would assist in discussing and engaging with others, – e.g. a leaflet on forest landscape restoration or advice on how to engage the private sector; forest landscape restoration was not just selling forests but the things that

forests do, which went beyond the forest to other sectors; money is not always needed – e.g. the Shinyanga example, which dealt with land and user rights, and awareness.

In particular, participants were challenged to state what they would do to follow up the Workshop, and all were encouraged to identify such actions and act on them on return home. They included an emerging national forest landscape restoration committee in the Netherlands; a case study on forest landscape restoration in Ghana, which was being prepared, a workshop which was planned and the drafting of a plan of action; further work on one of the models, and the offer to go back to the issue of what was forest landscape restoration, since there were still a variety of opinions; and a plan to take forward forest landscape restoration with policy/decision makers in Congo Basin countries.

The following points were related to the next steps

- It was essential to learn by doing, both at the level of pilot projects and in policy revision
- It was very possible to build on existing knowledge in multi-stakeholder planning and negotiation
- Key groups should be mobilized and the public must be educated
- It was necessary to improve technical and market information as a matter of urgency

Finally, the workshop endorsed the Petrópolis Challenge, which is reproduced at the beginning of this report. The Challenge is being presented to UNFF-5 but will also be used in other relevant arenas at the national, regional and international level.

The Challenge describes forest landscape restoration and highlights its contribution to the MDGs and to national development processes. It notes the track record of forest landscape restoration so far.

The Challenge calls for the restoration of forest landscapes to benefit people and nature and contribute to reversing the trends of forest loss and degradation.

It identifies next steps, including a call for new members to join the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration and for interested people, countries, organizations, the private sector and others to contribute to a growing portfolio of forest landscape restoration initiatives, that is, to participate in a growing a community of practice.

The Petrópolis Challenge provides a practical and reasonable goal for the international forest community on the restoring of forest landscapes as well as a solid basis for initiating or reinforcing learning sites and other actions at the national and regional level within achievable timelines.

Annex: Some Relevant Proposals for Action

Forest landscape restoration is relevant to a wide range of IPF and IFF proposals for action and the UNF programme of w rk. The UNFF programme of work contains a number of elements related to rehabilitation, restoration and reforestation. Some of these are:

- Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover
- Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and promotion of natural and planed forests
- Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs
- Social and cultural, and economic, aspects of forests.[1]

The IPF concluded that restoration of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid zones should not focus narrowly on afforestation, but deal with broader aspects of forest ecosystem management, including social and economic issues,[2] and urged Low Forest Cover Countries (LFCCs) to promote regeneration and restoration of degraded forest areas, including the involvement of indigenous peoples, local communities, forest dwellers and others.[3]

The IPF also called on LFCCs to: plan and manage forest plantations, where appropriate, to enhance production and provision of goods and services, paying due attention to relevant social, cultural, economic and environmental considerations in the selection of species, areas and silviculture systems, preferring native species, where appropriate, and taking all practicable steps to avoid replacing natural ecosystems of high ecological and cultural values with forest plantations, particularly monocultures.[4]

Following this, the IFF urged countries: to promote the creation of new forest resources through planted forests and the rehabilitation of degraded forests, taking into consideration their social, cultural and environmental impacts, and economic costs and benefits[5]; and to place rehabilitation and sustainable management of forests and trees in environmentally critical areas as a higher national priority.[6]

Promoting public participation is central to the forest landscape restoration concept. It is also one of the programme elements of the UNFF,[7] which is to be taken up each year. It relates to proposals for action of the IPF/IFF calling for:

- Promoting opportunities for the participation, *inter alia*, of indigenous people, forest-dependent people who possess traditional forest-related knowledge (TFRK), and forest owners in the planning, development and implementation of national forest policies and programmes[8]

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[1] Multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/CN.18/2001/5 and Corr.1, 16 April and 5 June 2001); United Nations Forum on Forests (E/2001/42/Rev.1, 11-22 June 2001), resolution 1/2, annex, para. 15.

[2] Report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on its fourth session (E/CN.17/1997/12), para. 43.

[3] Ibid., para. 58 (a)(iii).

[4] Ibid., para. 58 (b)(ii).

[5] Report of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests on its fourth session (E/CN.17/2000/14), para. 64 (g).

[6] bid., para. 129 (b).

[7] United Nations Forum on Forests, report on the organizational and first sessions (E/2001/42/Rev.1, 11-22 June 2001), resolution 1/2, annex, para. 15 (b).

[8] E/CN.17/1997/12, para. 40 (e).

- Supporting direct participation of all interested parties in forest policy discussions and planning[9]
- More transparent, effective and flexible forest-related activities, and providing for the effective participation of and collaboration among all interested parties and major groups[10]
- Creating appropriate procedures in order to promote effective participation of all interested parties in forest management decision-making.[11]

Forest landscape restoration also invokes a number of issues related to environmental services, which are reflected in the decisions of the IFF and UNFF. IFF-4 encouraged countries to: develop and implement appropriate strategies for the protection of the full range of forest values, including cultural, social, spiritual, environmental and economic aspects; recognise the multiple functions and sustainable uses of all types of forests, with particular regard to biological diversity; facilitate participation of communities and other interested parties; and integrate the livelihood needs of indigenous and local communities.[12]

The IFF agreed that protected areas should be established within a 'landscape continuum' where the conservation of biological diversity, environmental services and landscape values are accorded priority in the wider context of other forest management and land-use practices in surrounding areas.[13] The IFF noted that the establishment and management of protected forest areas within an ecosystem approach can contribute significantly to local economies and non-market benefits to society in the form of ecosystem services such as flood control, soil and watershed protection, and others which are essential to human well-being.[14]

In considering economic aspects of forests, the third session of the UNFF concluded that new efforts have to be made in relation to the development of new markets for environmental services, as an important component of sustainable forest management (SFM) in line with pertinent IPF/IFF proposals for action, and encouraged members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CFP) to develop and continue work on environmental services and potential markets.[15]

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[9] Ibid., para. 40 (f).
[10] Ibid., para. 139.
[11] E/CN.17/2000/14, para. 64 (b).
[12] Ibid., para. 85 (b).
[13] Ibid., para. 78.
[14] Ibid., para. 77.
[15] United Nations Forum on Forests, report on the third session (E/2003/42-E/CN.18/2003/13, 26 May-6 June 2003), para. 7, found at http://www.un.org/esa/forests/documents-unff.html#3.

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Item 9 of the provisional agenda*
High-level ministerial segment and policy dialogue with heads of international organizations

Note verbale dated 20 April 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to submit herewith the organizational initiative report on the "Expert Meeting on Traditional Forest-related Knowledge and the Implementation of Related International Commitments" (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations requests the Secretary-General to include this report among the documentation for the fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, to be held from 16 to 27 May 2005.

* E/CN.18/2005/1.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 20 April 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Expert Meeting on Traditional Forest-Related Knowledge and the Implementation of Related International Commitments 6-10 December 2004, San Jose, Costa Rica

Chairperson's report

[Original: English and Spanish]

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I. Introduction

The Expert Meeting on Traditional Forest Related Knowledge and the Implementation of Related International Commitments was held in San Jose, Costa Rica, from 8-10 December 2004 and was preceded by a two day Indigenous Preparatory Meeting from 6-7 December. The meeting was convened by the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests, the local host organization Ngobegue Association, and the Government of Costa Rica. This is a short summary of the processes and procedures, and of the main findings and recommendations for both the UNFF and the CBD. Interested people are encouraged to read the full proceedings report.

In order to establish an environment in which globally applicable recommendations could potentially be drafted, participants were drawn from countries and peoples throughout the world. Participant selection also focused on having a range of major international agencies relevant to forest policy, relevant regional and international NGOs, government representatives and UN bodies relevant to the meeting topic. The total number of participants was 161, with 104 Indigenous Peoples' representatives, 9 UN and International Agencies' representatives, 26 NGO representatives, 15 governmental representatives and 5 representatives of the scientific community.

Objectives

The primary objective of the Expert Meeting and the Indigenous Peoples' Preparatory Meeting was to identify ways to improve the national implementation of international commitments on indigenous peoples, local communities and traditional forest-related knowledge. Its specific objectives were to increase understanding of the challenges and successes in fulfilling international commitments on TFRK and related issues and generate concrete recommendations for improved national implementation; and to pinpoint strategies and best practice for the recognition of the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples and the effective protection and maintenance of their traditional forest related knowledge.

II. Organization of Work

The meeting was held in two phases, the Indigenous Peoples' Preparatory Meeting on the 6th and 7th of December and the formal Expert Meeting held on the 8th through 10th of December. The Indigenous Peoples' Preparatory Meeting was intended primarily to provide a forum for indigenous peoples to discuss the upcoming expert meeting, and to serve as a capacity building forum. After the conclusion of the Indigenous Peoples' Preparatory Meeting, the full Expert Meeting was held with representatives of governments and international agencies joining discussions and working groups.

III. Indigenous Peoples' Preparatory Meeting

The key objectives of holding a two-day Indigenous Peoples' Preparatory Meeting prior to the Expert Meeting were: to provide a capacity building session for all indigenous peoples' representatives to learn of international forest-related policy processes; to provide a forum for exchange of national and local level experiences between IPs from different regions; to formulate a common understanding; and to strengthen solidarity and networking among indigenous peoples' organizations and support networks.

Inaugural Programme

The programme of the Indigenous Peoples Preparatory Meeting began with an opening ceremony preformed by **Don Urbino Figueroa** who called on the spirits to guide the deliberations to follow. **Mr. Kittisak Rattanakrajangsri**, the Executive Secretary of the IAITPTF outlined the programme for the meeting and the expected outcomes from the discussions and debates to follow. **Ms. Esther Camac**, head of the local coordinating team and Regional Coordinator for the Central American region under the Alliance, then welcomed all participants and outlined meeting arrangements. **Mr. Parshuram Tamang**, UNPFII member for Asia and South Asia Regional Coordinator of the IAITPTF, and **Ms. Esperanza Colop**, a Mayan spiritual leader jointly acted as Chair for the two days of the Indigenous Peoples' Preparatory Meeting.

Orientation Programme

After the inaugural programme, Mr Tamang and Ms Colop guided the meeting into the orientation programme, where a range of presenters provided participants with background information on the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). To provide a balance in perspectives, representatives from the Secretariats of each process were invited to present, followed by Indigenous leaders providing history and information about indigenous involvement from an indigenous perspective, and the perspective of civil society.

The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

Ms. Ghazal Badiozamani, representing the Secretariat of the UNFF, introduced the past work and mission of the UNFF. The proposals for action which emerged from these processes are the guiding document for the work of the UNFF established by the UN ECOSOC in 2000 as a universal body for international forest policy within the scope of its programme of work. **Mr. Tom Griffiths**, from the Forest Peoples Programme, then presented some of the challenges and obstacles that Indigenous Peoples have faced in gaining greater recognition within the UNFF and the collaboration that the IP Major Group has forged with the NGO Major Group in UNFF. **Mr. Marcial Arias**, from the Kuna people of Panama and a long-term focal point for Indigenous Peoples within the UNFF processes, presented the challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples in the past in their collaboration and involvement with the UNFF process.

The Convention on Biological Diversity

Mr. John Gordon Scott, from the Secretariat of the CBD, presented a brief over view of the structure and mission of both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Secretariat that supports its implementation. **Ms Jannie Lasimbang**, a Kadazan from Malaysia currently serving as the Secretary General of the Asian Indigenous Peoples' Pact, presented the work that Indigenous Peoples have done to increase the profile and recognition accorded to Indigenous Peoples' rights within the CBD and all related processes.

National level case studies

After the orientation sessions were complete, a series of national case studies were presented by their authors. These case studies were commissioned by the IAITPTF to examine progress in implementation of international commitments at national and local levels, establishing clear examples of the challenges faced by governments, indigenous peoples, local communities and international forest-related agencies in different contexts, as well as identifying specific successes, and best practice cases. In this report, there is only a brief recounting of the case studies presented. Full case studies are available on request from the Secretariat of the International Alliance. Presented at the meeting were:

Africa

- Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ms. Emily Caruso, on behalf of Mr. Sinafasi Maleko Adrien
- Rwanda, Mr. Charles Uwiragiye
- Kenya, not presented due to travel difficulties, Ms. Lucy Mulenkei and Mr. Daniel Kobei

Asia

- Thailand, Mr Chupinit Kesmanee
- Nepal Dr. Bijay Singh
- Philippines, Ms Jill Carino
- India, commissioned study not presented due to travel difficulties, community experience presented instead by Mr. Devjit Nandi and Mr. Desrath Markam.

Latin America

- Peru, Sr. Roberto Espinoza.
- Venezuela, Sr. Ortimio Castillo
- Panama, Mr. Marcial Arias

Northern

- Russia, Mr. Vladimir Borchanikov
- United States of America, Mr Frank Lake
- Canada and the Wendeke Plan of Action, Mr Harry Bombay

During the presentation of these national case studies the draft Declaration document prepared by the Declaration Drafting Committee was presented to participants for discussion and change.

Working Group Discussions

After the orientation session and the detailed presentation and discussion of the national level case studies, there was general plenary discussion of what participants wanted to present to the UNFF and other relevant processes regarding international commitments on forest policy and indigenous peoples. Participants in the plenary then divided into four thematic working groups to discuss three areas of concern to Indigenous Peoples, namely: international level mechanisms and instruments; national level mechanisms and instruments; and issues or obstacles to participation by Indigenous Peoples. A further working group was established to discuss the principles on which Indigenous Peoples would be willing to participate in international processes regarding forest policy and forest management. Following here are the reports that these working groups presented back to plenary, which were then provided to the Declaration Drafting Committee for consolidation into a draft Declaration.

Working group one – **Principles and Preamble** – were asked to discuss the principles on which Indigenous Peoples would be willing to participate in international processes relevant to forest policy, and to review the preamble of the Declaration. The group, chaired by **Ms. Joji Carino**, discussed the issues brought to light during the orientation session, the issues raised in the national level case studies and the ensuring plenary discussions. A set of general principles was drafted which emphasized that IPs participate in these processes as rights-holders, not as stakeholders. Following this approach of rights-based participation, the principles also reaffirmed the rights of Indigenous Peoples as recognized in emerging international human rights instruments. The draft principles also dealt with the nature of TFRK, affirming that it is "indivisible, not transferable, inalienable and non-negotiable" and intimately linked with the lands and territories with which it has been developed.

Working group two dealt with **national level mechanisms and instruments**, with **Ms. Jannie Lasimbang** chairing the group discussions. The group reported back to the plenary with a detailed list of recommendations dealing with the need to harmonize, repeal and / or reform national legislation to confirm with international commitments. The recommendations also dealt with the categorization of lands (protected, reserved etc.) and the alienation of indigenous peoples that can result, extractive industries and government responsibilities to protect peoples' rights in the face of such industries were also discussed. Information disclosure on a national level was raised as an issue of particular relevance, and also the need to create or institute mechanisms for the protection and expansion of knowledge transmission.

Working group three dealt with **international level mechanisms and instruments** under the guidance of Mr. Marcial Arias. The key recommendations emerging from the discussions in this group were that TFRK should be treated as a cross-cutting issue in all UNFF discussions; that the UNPFII should become part of the CPF; and that measures should be taken to ensure financial support for IP participation at all levels. The group also outlined what they saw as the key weaknesses of the UNFF and the CPF, including: lack of transparency; ineffective monitoring and reporting mechanisms; weak linkages between international policy and national implementation; and aversion to discussion of human rights issues.

Working group four discussed issues of **participation**, and obstacles or opportunities available to Indigenous Peoples in participating in national and international level policy processes, under the guidance of **Ms. Le'a Kanehe.** Two aspects emphasized in the discussions were the barriers created by language difficulties, and the barriers of restricted understanding of the nature and implications of these policy processes at a community level. Specific recommendations included: fast tracking IP application to attend UN processes; establishing a UN funding mechanism for IPs specifically; participation of elders, youth and women should be emphasized; and all UN processes dealing with TFRK should insist on the participation of IPs. In regards to accountability and community understanding, recommendations were drafted dealing with follow-up activities and community consultation.

Plenary discussion of these presentations followed, and issues raised in addition to presented discussions included:

- The issue of trade negotiations and their impact on national legislation;
- The need for specific recommendations to deal with the currently contentious issue of Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC);
- The need to prioritize the recommendations being established;
- The lack of mention of conflict in Indigenous Peoples' lands and territories, and a related lack of mention of human rights violations;

The results of these discussions in plenary were presented to the drafting committee, together with written reports from each working group and any independent submissions that participants wanted to provide. The drafting committee worked long hours to synthesize all information provided into them into the draft Corobici Declaration which was then introduced into the Expert Meeting. It was finalized, as will be seen, in the Plenary Session on the final day of the meeting, on the 10th of December. The full Corobici Declaration is available in Chapter VIII of this report.

IV. Expert Meeting on TFRK and Related International Commitments

The formal work sessions of the Expert Meeting were opened with a Mayan spiritual ceremony held outside the grounds of the conference venue. **Ms Esperanza Colop** from Mexico led the ceremony, and called on the heart of the sky and the heart of the earth to guide participants in the meeting. Participants from throughout the world knelt together to ask for clarity of thought and wisdom for the coming deliberations.

The Government of Costa Rica opened the formal session of the Expert Meeting, with a welcome speech by the Costa Rican Vice-Minister of Environment and Energy, the **Honorable Snr. Allan Flores Moya**, who spoke of the support that the Costa Rican government gives to indigenous peoples within the country itself and internationally. Following this, **Ms Ghazal Badiozamani** presented a welcome speech on behalf of **Mr Pekka Patosaari** Head of the UNFF Secretariat. She emphasized the importance of UNFF5 to the future of the international dialogue on forests. Key discussions will take place in the 5th Session which will determine the shape of the UNFF in the future, and the possibilities open to states for any future arrangement on forests. Ms. Badiozamani emphasized the importance of involvement by Indigenous Peoples in a range of meetings in the five months remaining prior to UNFF5, where governments and agencies would be discussing and establishing their priorities and positions for the 5th Session. **Mr. Parshuram Tamang** on behalf of the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests, welcomed all participants to the meeting. In particular Mr. Tamang emphasized the Indigenous Peoples are key players, as rights holders, in conservation and in the sustainable use and management of forests. The key issues Mr Tamang brought to the attention of the plenary included: non-recognition of the rights of Indigenous Peoples; lack of social and human rights components in many National Forest Programmes; lack of knowledge about existing international agreements and arrangements on forests among communities and among local governments; and a low level of participation by Indigenous Peoples in the key international processes relevant to the protection of indigenous peoples' rights to resources, lands and territories.

After the formal opening session of the Meeting was concluded, the Chairs of the Expert Meeting were announced. The Government of Costa Rica extended high level support to all aspects of the Expert Meeting, and sent a representative, Sr. Jose Morales, to co-Chair the meeting. He was joined on the podium by **M. Jocelyn Therese**, from the Kalina people of French Guyana, and coordinator of the South American region of the International Alliance.

Regional Case Study Presentations

To establish a framework for the discussion to follow, the case study authors of each of the regional case studies presented their findings in plenary. This began with a presentation of the Africa regional study by **Mr Tom Griffiths**, followed by the Asian regional study presented by **Ms Joji Carino** and the Latin American study by **Sr. Carlos Seville**. The case studies are available in full text from the Secretariat of the Alliance.

Following these presentations, participants were divided into regional working groups to enable more detailed discussions. The regional working groups were each provided a general framework for the discussions to follow, and after two days working together reported back to plenary on the afternoon of the 9th of December. To enable more detailed exchange within regional groups, discussion of the actual experiences of participants was encouraged. Each group was mandated to compile recommendations to the UNFF, to the CBD, to national governments in their regions and to other processes or agencies as they saw fit. Thematic areas which each regional group was asked to look at included: recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights and / over traditional forest related knowledge; land rights, customary law and forest management; Intellectual Property Rights and traditional knowledge; and participation / mechanisms for monitoring.

Regional Working Group Discussions

Asia-Pacific Group

Ms. Joji Carino from Tebtebba Foundation in the Philippines chaired the Asia and Pacific Working Group, and the fruitful and wide-ranging discussions were framed around three thematic areas; lands, territories and resources; national land and forest plans, policies and programmes; and traditional knowledge. The thematic area of traditional knowledge (TK) was further divided into customary laws and TK inputs into sustainable forest management. In addition to these key thematic areas, cross-cutting issues were identified as participation mechanisms and implementation levels. Finally, a number of broader areas of concern or possible links were discussed, including Access and Benefit Sharing, and Climate Change.

The discussions began with a brief introductory explanation of national circumstances from each of the participants, after which the thematic issues were addressed in greater detail. Raja Devasish Roy described the history of the forest policies in place in Bangladesh, pointing also to the **role that external donors such as the ADB can play** in the development of such policies. This was supported by experience from Malaysia, with external donors putting pressure on the state to **emphasize natural resource management rather than natural resource extraction**. The legal framework in which indigenous lands and territories are viewed was brought up in the context of gazettal of lands in Indonesia, both Joji Carino and Hubertus Samangun bringing attention to **the lack of information provided to communities** prior to change in the legal status of lands. This was supported by the experience from Malaysia, where there are regulations which state all communities should be provided information prior to changes in land status, but where such information is often not provided. **The nationalization of forest lands** in Nepal, India and Thailand was also mentioned as a legal obstacle to the recognition of indigenous and tribal peoples' rights.

Representatives from the Pacific region joined discussions late on the first day, and provided brief descriptions of the circumstances facing them in Tonga, Aotearoa / New Zealand, Hawaii and Australia. For Aotearoa, 'conservation areas' are excised out of the area on which land claims by the Maori can be claimed and thus conservation policy constitutes an area of significant concern. For Tonga, there is total nationalization of forest lands, and around 70% of the total area of the country is under the ownership of the Crown or noble families. Corruption is a serious issue in the management of these lands. In the Australian context, past government policies have resulted in long-term alienation of indigenous peoples from their lands and resources.

There was also significant discussion **regarding terminology used by the national governments** in the region, and the recognition or otherwise of the presence of indigenous peoples. Mr. Chupinit Kesmanee mentioned that Thailand does not recognize the existence of Indigenous peoples in Thai territory, a position also true of Bangladesh and India. Dr Rekha Pai from India reiterated that although tribal peoples were recognized within Indian law, 'indigenous peoples' was a term that the government of India did not accept. It was agreed within the working group that differences in terminology used would be respected, that each participant could use the term which they considered appropriate and not object to the same right being exercised by others in the group.

Key themes emerging in the discussion over the first day were: the importance of international level commitments but a co-current need to recognize that **it is on the community level that the struggle to retain control over resources is being fought**; the issue of recognition of traditional management practices such as rotational farming; and the need to identify existing and possible **modes and mechanisms for participation**.

Africa Group

The Africa regional working group chaired by **Mr Lambert Okrah,** established that, in Africa, the fundamental obstacle to the implementation of any international commitment on TFRK is the **lack of formal governmental recognition of the existence of indigenous peoples and communities**. For this reason, African governments have in most cases not recognised indigenous peoples' lands or rights to these lands. Most of the lands indigenous peoples live on belong de facto to the government rather than the communities. Lack of control by African indigenous peoples over their forests and

lands is at the root of the loss of TFRK. Furthermore, recognition of indigenous peoples is fundamental if they are to meaningfully participate in and give their consent to projects which affect their lands, forests and TFRK. Many countries in Africa are also suffering **the consequences of, or are in the midst of armed conflict**. Governments are not providing the necessary protection for indigenous peoples caught in these conflicts, and this has severe consequences both for indigenous peoples' forests and the maintenance of their TFRK. Capacity building and resources for indigenous peoples and NGOs to effectively organise themselves and network, as well as being granted freedom to do so by their governments, was recommended as essential for indigenous peoples' rights advocacy and the maintenance of TFRK.

Another problem highlighted with regards to the maintenance of TFRK within communities is the **lack of interest of the younger generation** in learning this knowledge and the lack of desire in the older generation of passing it on. It was suggested that **capacity building and resources are necessary** for the education of boys, girls, and women, using both national curricula and specific indigenous curricula, which would include TFRK. Furthermore, steps should be taken to build indigenous communities and organisations' capacities to understand international agreements relating to TFRK, and the manners and forms they can use to advocate for their rights. More information and capacity building for indigenous peoples to deal with the issue of documentation and benefit sharing of indigenous knowledge was deemed essential.

Latin American Group

Ms. Mirian Masaquiza and **Sr. Cecilio Librado Solis** chaired discussions in the Latin American group. There was a general consensus among IP representatives that existing international commitments in Latin America were not being effectively implemented and that indigenous land rights were being violated. It was noted that certain governments had not yet recognised IPs in their constitutions and that they were rarely invited to participate in the formulation of national forest laws and programs. Whilst some argued that IPs ought to establish themselves politically, others stated that political representation would not be sufficient for indigenous needs to be met. Participants were also concerned that the **lack of funds for IP organisations** has meant that IPs are not empowered to implement local programs and management schemes.

On the issue of **benefits and intellectual property rights**, it was noted that IPs should have control over the conduct of research and bio-prospecting in their territories and that the results and benefits accruing from such activities should be returned to the communities concerned. However, there were concerns about any movement from a rights-based approach towards an approach concerned with the extraction of benefits from forest resources (this orientation was contrasted with that of the UNFF, which tends to focus on TK as it relates to IPRs and ABS). It was also recommended that the term IPR should be replaced with "Intellectual and Cultural Patrimony" in the context of IPs.

In relation to **TFRK and land tenure** many participants emphasised that secure land tenure and the preservation of TK are indivisible. Several stated that concessions made in indigenous territories constitute a serious threat to the TFRK of IPs and violate their land rights. It was noted that governments should **disseminate information on international processes** more effectively, and that UN bodies should harmonise their distinct systems for the participation of IPs so as to make them more accessible. Others drew attention to the need for IPs to be more proactive at the national level, ensuring their accountability to their local communities and organisations, and lobbying their governments.

In relation to the issue of **capacity-building**, a number of representatives asserted that young people should participate in indigenous decision-making processes and that access to education should be facilitated so as to enable their entry into national processes at higher levels. It was also recommended that IPs familiarise themselves with the legislative provisions that governments have put in place in order to be able to defend themselves effectively against violations of existing laws.

Northern Countries Group

The group, chaired by **Mr Markku Aho**, organized its focus around the upcoming meeting of the

UNFF (5) and the opportunity to address indigenous peoples' issues within the context of the assessment of work done thus far by the UNFF, as well as possible future arrangements. There was significant discussion regarding the future international arrangement on forests and it was recognized that **the IAF is currently not ready** to embark upon a process of negotiating a legally binding instrument on forests, since the UNFF has yet to adopt the holistic vision of forests held by indigenous peoples, in which their collective rights to their lands and territories and knowledge, are integral. Additionally, many group members felt that, while **there are clearly issues that are relevant to all indigenous peoples, there are also issues that are specific to Northern Indigenous Peoples**, and thus should be addressed as distinct regional or geo-political issues.

Embedded within the discussions on any future international arrangement on forests, there was much discussion regarding the fact that the scope of issues addressed in relation to Indigenous Peoples' Forest Related Issues needs to be expanded beyond the way it has thus far been defined (narrowly, for example, as TFRK), so that it can include some of the problems that are faced by Indigenous Peoples as a result of climate change, trade accords, protected areas legislation, etc. It was also noted that Indigenous Peoples do not want to simply be lumped in to "civil society", as a result of their existence as distinct peoples. Thus, they need to be incorporated into the international negotiating fora (and national as well) in a manner that reflects this unique status, in comparison to the other "major groups" that have been established through the Rio/Agenda 21 framework.

V. Concluding Remarks

On the 9th of December all regional working groups reported back to plenary, presenting the detailed recommendations resulting from the work that they had done over the 7th and 8th of December. The Drafting Committee for the recommendations, including Ms. Ghazal Badiozamani, Mr. Marcus Colchester, Ms. Joji Carino, Mr. Ricardo Carrere and Mr Johnson Cerda then worked hard to consolidate the key recommendations into a central text for presentation back to the plenary. In detailed discussion in plenary on the 10th of December, a total of 81 recommendations were passed, directed at a range of actors and processes. The recommendations focus on providing practical international, national and local guidelines for the effective implementation of commitments, and will serve as a useful tool for lobby and advocacy work in the future for all participants. More specifically, the recommendations focus on

- establishing effective frameworks for recognition of indigenous peoples' rights in forest policies by national governments and states
- improving implementation of international agreements related to forests
- implications for the International Arrangement on Forests
- indigenous peoples' actions
- donor agencies' role in cooperation and partnerships to achieve needed reforms and to ensure proper and adequate capacity building

The plenary on the 10th of December also saw the adoption of the Corobici Declaration, an outcome of the earlier Indigenous Peoples' Preparatory Meeting. The Declaration calls for recognition and protection of the rights and roles of indigenous peoples in forest policy-making and management. The recommendations and declaration will be submitted to the 5th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) in May 2005, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and other international forest-related processes as proposed models of implementation. In the closing session of the Meeting, Licenciado Carlos Manuel Rodríguez Echandi, Minister of Environment and Energy in the Government of Costa Rica, attended and formally thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

VI. The Corobici Declaration and Consolidated Recommendations

The Corobici Declaration

Preamble

1. We the Indigenous Peoples gathered here in San Jose, Costa Rica, reaffirm the principles contained in the Kari Oca Declaration, the Leticia Declaration, the Kimberley Declaration and Indigenous Peoples Plan of Implementation for Sustainable Development and the Wendake Plan of Action. Through a range of actions such as community defense of forests, national consultations, documentation of case studies, and the application of indigenous knowledge, indigenous peoples are contributing to sustainable forest management and protection.
2. Indigenous peoples provide concrete solutions to many of the issues facing humanity today and by strengthening indigenous peoples' roles through effective participation in areas such as forest management and sustainable development, indigenous peoples can contribute significantly to a sustainable future for all of humanity.
3. We are shocked at the accelerated deterioration of our lands, territories, forests, water and subsoil and at the continuing violation of our rights. Free access to and use of our lands, forests and waters is forbidden to us. The titling of our lands is postponed in order to favor third parties. Protected areas, oil, timber, fishing concessions and forest plantations are created that overlap with our lands, resulting in the eviction of and restrictions for our peoples. Leaders and communities defending their forests are imprisoned and arbitrarily harassed. Our fight for our rights is criminalized and our territories are militarized. The increasing number of these cases and the lack of legal redress is alarming, as the leaders and experts attending the meeting have pointed out.
4. We express our deep concern about the attitude of the United Nations bodies in treating traditional knowledge in a fragmented manner, without recognition of its holistic nature and its indissoluble unity with our collective rights as peoples.
5. We are concerned that national and international processes related to free trade agreements between states foster the usurpation and degradation of our forests, lands and territories, as well as biopiracy and uncontrolled access to genetic resources in our forests, lands and territories.
6. The greatest obstacles for the implementation of international standards and mechanisms related to the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples are the lack of political will of nation states, unfair and discriminatory laws, and the lack of sufficient funds and resources to allow the autonomous development and full participation of indigenous peoples in all processes.
7. Traditional Forest Related Knowledge (TFRK) of indigenous peoples is intrinsically interlinked with our life. It cannot be separated from our interrelationship to our territories. We emphasize the unique spiritual values, world views and cosmologies of indigenous peoples, all of which are interconnected to the sacred web of life and enrich the cultural diversity of all humanity. There is no knowledge without peoples or territories.
8. Traditional Forest Related Knowledge of indigenous peoples is not a commodity. It cannot be extracted, documented and traded. It is linked to our intergenerational cultural development, survival, beliefs, spirituality and medicinal systems. It is inseparable from our lands and territories. Its use is confined to persons with the appropriate authority to use it in accordance with our customary laws.
9. Our traditional knowledge is much more than simply the knowledge of certain plants or animals. It is intimately linked to the spiritual world, to ecosystems, and to the biological diversity within our lands and territories and it transcends national boundaries. Fragmented misappropriation of this knowledge constitutes a deep violation of the integrity of our lives, territories and autonomous development.

In view of the above, we once more demand the recognition of the following principles in all forest policies and issues related to TFRK:

General Principles:

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. We have legal and juridical systems based on our collective rights to our territories and natural resources, including subsoil resources.
2. The application of the principle of free and prior informed consent is fundamental in any decision which could affect our territories, lands, forests and development planning.
3. The issue of traditional knowledge must be regarded in a holistic manner, inseparable from our rights as peoples.
4. We are the owners and custodians of indigenous knowledge, and the ones to decide upon the nature of its use and application, and the conditions under which it can accessed or not. Indigenous peoples are opposed to a use of traditional knowledge which violates the spirituality and cosmovision associated with traditional knowledge.
5. We endorse a rights-based approach as the most appropriate way of dealing with the theme of forests and traditional knowledge, and also with efforts to eradicate poverty. Such an approach recognizes both the collective and individual rights of indigenous peoples, which include our rights to self-determination, our rights to the use and control of our natural resources, to our cultural heritage, to our self-development, to our languages and our traditional ways of life and livelihood.
6. Indigenous peoples have the right to a development that is appropriate and suitable for us, on our own terms and conditions, and at our own pace and tempo, managed and guided by our own leaders, institutions and processes. The right to use our forests, water and subsoil which we have protected and sustainably used over the centuries, in ways that we find appropriate, including contemporary innovative systems of forest use and forest management, is part of our right to development.
7. We emphasize the need to strengthen the major role of indigenous women in the preservation and transmission of indigenous knowledge. The role of elders and spiritual guides as owners and transmitters of traditional knowledge to the younger generations must also be recognized.

15.00 - adopted

*Indigenous leader of the Huetar people of Costa Rica

CONSOLIDATED RECOMMENDATIONS

Establishing Effective Frameworks

Recognizing that the protection and promotion of the Tradit ional Forest Related Knowledge (TFRK) of Indigenous Peoples (IP) is inextricably linked with their full cultural and intellectual heritage, secure rights to their lands, territories and the natural resources therein and with their spirituality and customary law,

Considering that indigenous peoples' rights are the foundation of their future development, and that many indigenous peoples traditionally and currently depend on forests, and that indigenous peoples' rights must be recognized in forest policies,

Asserting that sustainable forest management cannot be achieved without the protection of IP rights,

We provide the following recommendations:

National governments and states should, with full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples:

1. Undertake constitutional reforms that recognize the existence and identities of Indigenous Peoples in their countries, through plural legal regimes and by ensuring their prominence in national law

2. Ratify the International Labour Convention 169 on the Rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries, where Indigenous Peoples so demand.

3. Support the adoption of the UN Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

4. Review national constitutions, laws and policies to harmonize them with applicable international laws and agreements concerning the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

5. Repeal exclusionary forest and conservation laws, policies and associated norms, codes and legislation that criminalize the customary resource use practices and traditional livelihood activities

6. Reform national forest and conservation policies, laws, institutions, and land tenure regimes to recognize indigenous peoples' unambiguous and secure rights to collectively own, manage, and control their territories, forests and other natural resources, taking into account their traditional lifestyles and customary systems of tenure, especially those relevant to TK;

7. Repeal all assimilationist development laws and policies since they devalue and undermine Indigenous Knowledge, including TFRK

8. Adopt laws and programs that eliminate and penalize all forms of discrimination, intolerance and social exclusion, and ratify and implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination

9. Develop primary and secondary school curricula to reflect the perspectives of, and be relevant to, Indigenous systems of knowledge

10. Implement affirmative action regarding the provision of education to indigenous girls and boys, such as free education

11. Provide the required technical services and political and moral support necessary for the recognition, creation, and functioning of future Indigenous universities, where Indigenous Peoples so demand

12. Ensure that in schools and universities where forestry and related studies are taught current curricula for courses and degrees are expanded to include both TFRK and the rights of Indigenous Peoples

13. Initiate deliberate action to provide indigenous women with the necessary capacity to fully participate in all strategies of natural resource management, and to share their knowledge of traditional natural resource management practices

14. Allow freedom of association for indigenous peoples, in order to form networks and organisations, to advocate for their rights

15. Not interpret national sovereignty in any way that undermines the rights of peoples, inclusive of indigenous peoples, including their right to self-determination and permanent sovereignty over the natural resources in their territories.

16. Respect, promote and implement the economic, social and cultural rights of IP to ensure coherence with processes of territorial demarcation and respect for Indigenous customary law and forest management

17. Prohibit the imposition of protected areas and forest reserves on Indigenous Peoples' territories and halt the involuntary displacement of IP. In the case of alienated lands of indigenous peoples, governments should take adequate measures to restore ownership and possession of the same to the indigenous peoples.

18. Not establish concessions that affect Indigenous territories and rights. Where this has occurred, reparations and indemnity for damages caused should be paid, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits provided.

19. Initiate immediately, in a fully participatory manner, the restitution of indigenous peoples' lands expropriated for settlement, conservation and development projects without their free, prior and informed consent. Where this is not possible they should be provided with compensation and preferably provided lands of equal quality and extent

20. Ensure equitable representation of indigenous peoples on relevant government commissions and in the parliament

21. Adopt timely national measures to promote and facilitate the implementation of Article 10(c) of the CBD

22. Undertake development of policies and laws, with the free prior informed consent of Indigenous peoples, that implement the Akwe:kon Guidelines for the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessments regarding development proposed to take place on, or which are likely, to impact on, sacred sites and on lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by Indigenous and local communities

23. Adopt and adhere to policies of full information disclosure of relevance to indigenous peoples and TFRK, and disseminate this information widely in appropriate languages and forms

24. Stop large-scale, illegal logging while recognizing without criminalizing the customary use and access to forests by local communities and indigenous peoples for their own needs. At the same time, the state should address the root causes of poverty that exert undue pressure on forest communities

25. Recognize customary law and legal pluralism as vital means of protecting TFRK while adopting additional *sui generis* measures to prevent the expropriation of IP knowledge and resources without diminishing IP customary jurisdictions and laws and respecting the collective, holistic, inalienable and intergenerational nature of indigenous cultural heritage

26. Support customary rotational farming and hunting and fishing practices to ensure their sustainability through action research and education. Protection of these extensive systems of land use requires the statutory recognition of indigenous peoples' territories.

27. Provide an institutionalized and regular process for IPs to dialogue among themselves, with government representatives, and among government departments to review and harmonize national policies and laws and to discuss other matters of high priority and concern to IP.

28. In negotiating an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing, recognize and protect the fundamental principle that Indigenous Peoples are rights-holders with inherent and inalienable rights over their traditional knowledge and biological resources, including genetic material, within their territories. Obligations of states under human rights conventions must be fully recognized in the development of an international regime. States must ensure that the rights of Indigenous Peoples to free, prior informed consent when their knowledge or genetic resources are sought for utilization, including the right to deny access and /or refuse to participate.

29. Refrain from deploying or permitting military and para-military forces to protect forest reserves and other areas adjacent to indigenous peoples' territories

30. Immediately repeal laws that provide immunity from criminal prosecution to government officials with responsibilities for forest management.

Improving Implementation

Although many existing international agreements related to forests recommend positive policy changes and action, the national case studies and regional reviews carried out for this meeting show clearly that the majority of these agreements are being implemented tardily, inadequately, and with little real participation from IP.

One glaring example of the dangers in excluding IP from implementation strategies is evident in the experience with databases and registries designed to document Indigenous knowledge as a means, *inter alia*, of establishing evidence of prior art.

Databases of traditional and associated biological knowledge could be a means to facilitate access by external entities, making traditional knowledge vulnerable to exploitation. Databases and registers are only one approach in the effective protection of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices and their establishment should be considered voluntary, not a requirement for protection, and where established, occur only with the free prior informed consent of indigenous and local communities. Traditional knowledge that is already documented or in registers or databases should not be considered to be in the public domain, and Indigenous peoples retain all rights over the ownership and use of such knowledge. Indigenous peoples have a right to grant or refuse such access as well as to determine the level of such access.

Governments therefore should:

31. Take adequate measures to help preserve and protect the TFRK of IP, with the free, prior and informed consent of the IP concerned.

32. Liaise with indigenous peoples to establish a process for the documentation of TFRK with the free prior and informed consent of IP

33. Recognise that the knowledge so documented continues to be the property of the indigenous peoples in question, and that it cannot be used in any manner without their free prior informed consent, through the establishment, in a fully participatory manner, of appropriate laws and policies.

34. Ensure that indigenous peoples receive the benefits from any use of this knowledge, through the establishment, in a fully participatory manner, of appropriate laws and policies.

35. All international processes dealing with forest issues (including the UNFF and CBD), as well as all international forest-related agencies (including members of the CPF) should apply an integrated and rights-based approach in all policy discussions, initiatives, projects or programmes that directly or indirectly deal with or relate to traditional knowledge.

36. Ensure that agro-forestry technologies drawing upon TFRK, such as 'Taungya', clearly acknowledge the origins of this knowledge and only apply it with the free, prior and informed consent of its original custodians

Implications for the International Arrangement on Forests

Recognizing that the IAF is not ready to embark on a process of negotiating a legally binding instrument on forests, since the UNFF has yet to adopt the holistic vision of forests held by indigenous peoples in which indigenous peoples' collective rights to their lands and territories and knowledge are integral;

Moreover, concerned that the IAF/UNFF has yet to accept the necessity of defending forests, indigenous peoples and local communities against the pressures of international free trade agreements;

Any future international arrangement on forests (post-UNFF 5) should:

37. Only be embarked on with the full and effective participation and consent of indigenous peoples, and only if the provisions of the proposed arrangement are respectful towards and consistent with the rights of IPs

38. Have a specific standing agenda item addressing Indigenous Peoples' Forest Issues. Additionally, Indigenous Peoples' Forest Issues should be addressed as cross-cutting issues throughout the various processes. The program of work of any future arrangement should take into account the relevance of indigenous perspectives to all aspects of work.

39. At the national level, governments should address Indigenous Peoples' issues within their National Forest Programs and National Biodiversity Action Plans, and Parks and Protected areas strategies, and strengthen Indigenous Peoples' participation in national planning implementation and reporting. Additionally, consultation should be done with respect to appropriate Indigenous Peoples' structures, with mechanisms for documentation and disclosure.

40. Regarding the CBD and UNFF and Strengthening National Reporting:

a) UNFF secretariat should redraft guidelines for national reporting to ensure it embraces a broader set of issues relevant to Indigenous issues and TFRK.

b) The CBD, UNFF and their Member States should strengthen national reports by including, in an equitable way, the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples, and by providing equitable funding and resources for Indigenous Peoples to submit parallel reports to complement and enrich national reporting process to the CBD.

c) National Reports to the CBD and UNFF should identify who (in terms of Indigenous Peoples) has been consulted through what IP structures/organizations and Indigenous Peoples' communities should be aware of the process and structures to allow them to participate and contribute.

41. The CBD, and any future international arrangement on forests, must increase and accelerate work on mainstreaming Indigenous Peoples' issues, as cross-cutting issues, across all of the thematic and other areas of the CBD.

42. UNPFII should provide greater coordination and guidance and make recommendations to the UNFF, governing bodies of the CPF member organizations, including the CBD, in their work relevant to Indigenous Peoples.

43. The UNPFII should create a task force on Traditional Knowledge bringing together all the UN agencies working on Traditional Knowledge to ensure a broad and effective holistic approach to the protection of Traditional Knowledge and related natural resources.

44. The UNPFII, now that it exists with a mandate relevant to the UNFF, should become a member of the CPF.

45. International Arrangement on Forests/CBD should institute/establish a Northern Regional process on forest issues, with a particular focus on TFRK in the Northern and Boreal regions. In creating this process, the Arctic Council should be seen as an example of good practice on high-level cooperation between governments and indigenous peoples.

46. National Criteria and Indicators frameworks for SFM must include a specific criterion on Indigenous Peoples Forest Issues, which will, as a focus, measure the extent to which Indigenous rights are respected and TFRK is considered in Forest Management, in the view of Indigenous Peoples. Any future international arrangement on forests, in addressing C & I, must embed indigenous issues in this process. Current Criteria and Indicators need to be redeveloped to include indigenous perspectives.

47. The UNFF/CBD should direct increased attention to global warming in their work, and activities relating to TFRK, since global warming is an increasing source of destruction of TFRK, particularly concerning the Arctic region, the Amazon basin and small island developing states.

48. Any International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) must conform to existing international law related to Indigenous rights, such as that on FPIC, which is an established principle in working methodologies of the UN, such as those taking place through the CBD, UNDP, etc. Additionally, rather than seeing existing discussions as sufficient, any future international arrangement on forests should aspire to advance Indigenous Peoples' rights such as that of self-determination.

49. Any IAF should adopt the best practices of other UN bodies (such as CBD in its work on Art. 8(j) / WGIP / UNPFII) concerning the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples. Any IAF should adopt such mechanisms of participation.

50. The UNFF, and any subsequent international arrangement on forests, should recognize Indigenous Peoples as distinct peoples and grant them increased and differentiated participation consistent with emerging trends in the UN system.

51. The UNPFII should work with the WTO Secretariat and Member States to open up the WTO to Indigenous Peoples' participation and to raise their awareness of the impact of trade arrangements on Indigenous Peoples and their rights.

52. Governments, any future IAF, and CBD, should support national and/or international policies which restore full access and rights to resources and traditional territories necessary for Indigenous Peoples to exercise traditional land use activities, such as hunting, fishing, gathering, herding, and ceremonial activities required to maintain and rejuvenate TFRK and support the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples. Additionally, in consultation with the relevant Indigenous Peoples, governments should halt current projects that are contributing to the degradation of traditional lands until it has been established what rights Indigenous Peoples have to the land. Also, a process should be established to determine these rights and interests.

53. Countries, donor agencies, the IAF, CBD and other members of the CPF, should support efforts at the national, regional, and local level to utilize both TFRK and scientific forest related knowledge in the development of forest policies, forest, research, forest assessments, sustainable forest management practices and monitoring activities, with the full and effect participation of indigenous peoples.

54. Any future IAF should focus on monitoring, assessment and reporting on implementation of IPF/IFF PFAs. In addition, third party assessments, peer reviews, and independent evaluations of these processes should be emphasized.

55. National governments, donor agencies, and voluntary fund mechanisms should provide adequate funding to support Indigenous Peoples' initiatives to develop their capacity to manage forests and take part in national and international initiatives.

56. IAF and CBD should encourage member states to develop new institutional arrangements, such as an Indigenous Peoples' forest tenure, consistent with the community forest movement, which would additionally address indigenous peoples' rights, and incorporate their unique forest values and interests.

57. Establish, with the full participation of indigenous peoples, benchmarks and indicators for measuring the implementation of national guidelines and regulations regarding TFRK

58. The UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol should not regard plantation forests as carbon sinks in CDM projects.

59. The UN Special Rapporteur on the rights and fundamental freedoms of IP should elaborate a report specifically on the current status of TFRK.

60. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees should create a special program to address the needs of IP displaced by the exploitation of their lands and territories.

61. The UNESCO Draft Convention on Cultural Diversity must be negotiated between mem ber states and representatives of IP to ensure that it provides adequate protection of their cultural heritage.

62. There should be full discussion and open participation by representatives of IP in WIPO's work related to genetic resources, traditional knowledge, and traditional expressions of culture.

63. The Secretariats of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, UNFF, CBD as well as UNIFEM and other UN agencies should compile best practices related to Indigenous women's tradit ional knowledge of forest management.

Indigenous Peoples

Recognizing that self-determination implies both rights and responsibilities, IP should:

64. Together with NGOs and funding agencies, ensure that information about relevant international processes reach IP communities in appropriate language and form, and to also ensure that members of such communities are able to attend the relevant international meetings.

65. Together with NGOs and funding agencies, ensure that preparatory meetings are held in IP territories and areas prior to IP participation at international meetings concerning their rights.

66. Transmit the millennial knowledge of their ancestors to future generations in which process indigenous women, community elders and spiritual guides play a fundamental role

67. Undertake activities that would provide civic education to indigenous peoples and communities, on issues regarding TFRK

68. Raise their governments' awareness of Indigenous Peoples' skills and capacities with regard to TFRK and sustainable forest management

69. Initiate deliberate action to reform customary practices that prevent the full participation of women in natural resource management

70. Advocate for TFRK to become a part of school curricula in indigenous communities

71. Strengthen advocacy measures to reform national laws and policies to bring them into conformity with obligations under international law, and to take effective administrative and other measures to implement those laws

72 Strengthen the participation of indigenous children and youth in international and national processes on forests

73. Northern Indigenous Peoples' Organizations should initiate the creation of a focal point from Northern IPOs that would parallel the focal point of Indigenous Peoples' Organizations representing Southern countries. This self-selected focal point should be welcomed by the Secretariat of the UNFF.

Donor Agencies

Recognizing the important role of international cooperation and partnerships to achieve needed reforms and to ensure proper and adequate capacity building, donor governments and agencies should:

74. Support exchange programmes between different indigenous communities, both locally, nationally, regionally and globally, in order to share experiences and knowledge on the promotion and protection of TFRK

75. Provide resources for the capacity building of indigenous peoples to undertake lobbying and advocacy activities

76. Provide resources to undertake lobbying and advocacy activities at the local, national and international levels

77. Mainstream consideration of TFRK related issues in all projects and programmes affecting indigenous peoples

78. Provide sufficient resources to support projects and programmes which are planned, executed and managed by IP for their self-development.

79. No international financial institution should promote or enter into projects related to natural resources, forests, land, water, agriculture, mining etc. that are not accepted by the relevant Indigenous Peoples

80. International agencies that finance or otherwise support or promote forest-related policies, projects or programmes (including the World Bank, Regional Development Banks, GEF, FAO etc.) must ensure that such activities are acceptable to affected indigenous peoples or other holders of traditional knowledge, as expressed through their representative institutions and organizations, prior to any policy adoption or any approval of a particular project or programme.

81. Recommend to Northern Governments, Donor Organizations, and Voluntary Fund mechan isms, to ensure that funding is also made available to enable the participation of Northern countries' Indigenous Peoples in relevant international and national meetings. Additionally, once funded, Indigenous Peoples should be free to participate as they see fit, through government delegations or in their own capacity.

Adopted by consensus, Corobici Hotel, San Jose Costa Rica, 10 December 2004

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New York, 16-27 May 2005
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations to the United Nations Forum on Forests

Note by the Secretariat

1. The secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests has reviewed the credentials of the following intergovernmental organizations that have requested accreditation to the Forum:

(a) The Montreal Process;

(b) Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO).

2. The secretariat of the Forum has judged the activities of these organizations to be relevant to the work of the Forum and they have been approved by its Bureau; accordingly, it is recommended that they be granted observer status by the Forum.

* E/CN.18/2005/1.

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